WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A content sales period verifying system in a content distribution system in which a center sells a content in response to a request for purchasing the content given from a terminal,

said terminal comprising:

sales period reading means for reading sales period set on the content;

present time data generating means for generating present time data indicating present time;

comparing means for comparing the sales period read by said sales period reading means with the present time indicated by the present time data generated by said present time data generating means; and

purchase requesting means for requesting said center for purchasing the content when said comparing means judges that the present time falls within the sales period.

2. A content sales period verifying system according to claim 1, wherein said center distributes a single piece of medium storing a plurality of encrypted contents each set with the sales periods thereof and supplies said

terminal having made the request for purchasing one of the
contents with a key for decrypting the content.

3. A content sales period verifying system according
to claim 2, wherein effective period of said medium itself
is set on said medium,

said terminal further comprises effective period
reading means for reading the effective period of said
medium itself,

said comparing means compares the effective period of
said medium itself that is read by said effective period
reading means with the present time indicated by the
present time data generated by said present time data
generating means, and

said purchase requesting means requests said center
for purchasing when said comparing means judges that the
present time falls within the sales period and is (anterior
to end of the effective period of said medium itself.)

4. A content sales period verifying system according
to claim 2, wherein said center comprises:

a database registered with the sales period set on
each content;

database reading means for reading the sales period

of the content from said database when said terminal makes

the request for purchasing one of the contents;

determining means for determining whether the present

time falls within the sales period read by said database

reading means; and

key supplying means for supplying said terminal with

a key for decrypting the content when said determining

means determines that the preset time falls within the

sales period.

5. A content sales period verifying system according

to claim 3, wherein said center comprises:

a database registered with the effective period of

said medium itself and the sales period set on each

content;

database reading means for reading the effective

period of said medium itself and the content sales period

from said database;

determining means for determining whether the present

time is anterior to end of the effective period read by

said database reading means, and whether the present time

falls within the sales period read by said database

reading means; and

key supplying means for supplying said terminal with a key for decrypting the content when said determining means determines that the present time is (anterior to the end of the effective period and falls within the sales period)

6. A content sales period verifying system according to claim 4, wherein said center further comprising:

period data adding means for generating period data indicating an effective period of the key and adding this item of period data to the key supplied to said terminal, and

said terminal further comprises:

second comparing means for comparing the key effective period indicated by the period data with the present time indicated by the present time data generated by said present time data generating means, and

decrypting means for decrypting the content requested for purchasing when said second comparing means judges that the present time falls within the key effective period.

7. A content sales period verifying system according to claim 6, wherein said terminal further comprises:

a disk device for storing the contents; and

installing means for installing the content decrypted by said decrypting means into said disk device.

8. A content decryption key effective period verifying system in a content distribution system for distributing encrypted contents and supplying terminals making requests for purchasing a content with key for decrypting the content,

a center comprising:

period data adding means for generating period data indicating a key effective period and adding the period data to the key, and

said terminal comprising:

present time data generating means for generating present time data indicating a present time;

comparing means for comparing the key effective period indicated by the period data with the present time indicated by the present time data generated by said present time data generating means; and

decrypting means for decrypting the content requested

for the purchasing when the purchasing when said comparing means judges that the present time falls within the key effective period.

9. A storage device readable by a computer, storing an encrypted content which is set with its sales period and a program of instructions executably by the computer to perform method steps, said steps comprising ;

    reading the sales period:

    generating present time data indicating present time;

    comparing the sales period with the present time indicated by the present time data; and

    requesting for purchasing the content when the present time falls within the sales period.